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House Group Ratios Set Up

Congressional Democrats proceeded to give themselves nearly 2-to-1 majorities on most House committees yesterday, in keeping with 1958 election results, as Republicans and Democrats in both houses buckled down to Congress organization chores.

In these other developments:

- The House Republican Committee on Committees unanimously nominated Rep. Leslie C. Arends (Ill.), who was minority whip under Rep. Joseph C. Martin Jr. (Mass.), to continue in the same role under Rep. Charles A. Halleck (Ind.), the new House Republican floor leader.

- After the Committee met, Halleck told newsmen that in general he regarded the approximately 2-to-1 Democratic committee ratios as "fair." A 9-man House GOP subcommittee, headed by Halleck as ex-officio chairman, was set up to name the GOP members of House committees. House Republicans will have 37 fewer seats than last year.

- A full-dress House Republican conference was called for today to consider, among other things, an organized Republican fight on the session-opening proposal by Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.) to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and transfer its functions to the House Judiciary Committee.

- Senate Republican conservatives and "progressives" fell out again, this time over the choice of a chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee. A Senate GOP conference was called to consider a resolution by Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa), to amend the Party rules to require the post to be filled from "one or more nominations" submitted by 1960 GOP senatorial candidates.

Goldwater Opposed

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Calif.), choice of most Party conservatives for the post, is opposed by many of the so-called progressives. The GOP conference chairman, Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (Mass.), who now holds the power to name the GOP chairman, said he will call a second Party conference for Thursday to elect a Republican chairman and confirm other nominations if the Hickenlooper motion is adopted.

In approving roughly 2-to-1 Democratic ratios for most House committees, Demo-

cratic leaders apparently gave themselves enough margin on the House Education and Labor Committee to get the kind of labor reform legislation they want.

Democrats will outnumber Republicans on the Committee 20 to 10, as compared with 17 to 13 in the last Congress. Actually, Chairman Graham Barden (D-N. C.) and Rep. Phil Landrum (D-Ga.) often voted with Republicans in the last Congress. The new 10-vote margin will give Democratic leaders a firm margin of control.

Despite Democratic election-year gains, there was no change in Democratic representation on three so-called fixed-ratio committees. Their strength continued to be 8 to 4 on the Rules Committee, 15 to 10 on Ways and Means, and 30 to 10 on Appropriations. Nor was there any change in the 5-to-4 margin Democrats held in the last Congress on the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Committee Margins

Here are the increased margins by which Democrats will control other House committees in the 86th Congress, compared with the margins they held in the last Congress:

Agriculture — 22-12, compared with 19-14; Armed Services — 23-14, compared with 20-17; Banking and Currency — 19-11, compared with 17-13; District of Columbia — 16-9, compared with 14-11.

Foreign Affairs — 21-11, compared with 17-15; Government Operations — 19-11, compared with 17-13; House Administration — 16-9, compared with 14-11; Interior — 19-12, compared with 17-14; Commerce — 21-12, compared with 18-15; Judiciary — 21-11, compared with 18-14.

Merchant Marine — 20-11, compared with 18-14; Post Office and Civil Service — 16-9, compared with 14-11; Public Works — 22-12, compared with 14-11; Science and Astronautics (space) — 16-9, compared with 7-6; Veterans Affairs — 16-9, compared with 15-10.

The Republicans will have to come up with five new faces for District Committee assignment, seven of last year's members having been defeated in the November elections.